

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.275

December 1988

NEXT MEETING - Fire and Rescue Communications.

The emergency services rely more and more on radio communication to provide the population with fast reacting aid to their problems.

This month we welcome Dave Elwell, G4MUS to tell us about the latest innovations in the Fire and Rescue services and to reassure us that when we become involved in accidents, help is never far away.

The meeting will assemble at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th December in the Marconi College, Arbour lane, Chelmsford and we look forward to seeing you all there for the Christmas lecture and raffle.

In addition, an invitation has been made to winner of the Chelmsford DF Trophy to visit us. This year Roy Emeny is the worthy winner and during the meeting the presentation of the Trophy Cup will be made.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 6 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Fire and Rescue Communications. Dave Elwell G4MUS.
- 17 Dec. CLUB SOCIAL - Telford Lodge, Arbour Lane.
- 20 Dec. CLUB VISIT - To Southend Airport.
- 3 Jan. CLUB MEETING - The annual Video Show.
- 15 Jan. THE SNOWMAN DF EVENT - Details next month.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - ANNUAL JUNK SALE - Brian G0BDS.

It's not suprising when you think about it, that because the electronics field has been under continual development for so many years and will continue to be in the future, all yesterdays High Tec developments are tomorrows if not todays junk.

Now with this in mind you can now understand why such a complicated looking piece of circuitry as could be seen held up in Gwyns hand at the last meeting sold for the princely sum of 10p, that is if it actually got sold at all. Mindyou, if it had lots of knobs and a small green C.R.O. tube and had any resemblance to a single or dual trace oscilloscope then it could go for anything between 50p and £25.

This was the first club meeting that we had deliberately left the table lay-out as we had found it, that is to say, chairs on the side around tables in the middle. This turned out to be the best shape to have for this type of meeting that requires a lot of running up and down to pass out the junk.

Chris, G0IPU and I had quite an easy time really and could safely stroll up the side aisle's delivering the goodies and collecting the rewards. These rewards were safely deposited with Bill our Treasurer who as in previous years had that happy "loads of money" smile all evening.

The general level of all the Junk in terms of quality was high and also it had all been brought to the meeting well packed which made for easy selection and auction. Some of the items sold were, as often is the case, not directly connected with radio but never the less exceptional value and the drawing board and "T" square I bought for £1 will last my children and myself for many years.

At the end of the evening there was practically nothing that had not been sold and the room was soon left tidy with the club better off to the tune of £62.29.

Our thanks to Gwyn for making an excellent Auctioneer.

MEMBERS NEWS - E1a G6HKM.

The Society extends a welcome to three new members, they are Ivan Rush, G4VAD, Denis Whitbread, G4VGS and Brian Shaw, G7AXD.

Congratulations to Tom, G4INM and Gladys who celebrate their Golden Wedding on the 17th December.

Dennis Butcher, G1UB0 has had a long stay in hospital, Dennis is home again now but it will be some considerable time before he will be fit enough to return to work. Dennis is interested in packet radio and monitors 144.675MHz for contacts. Hope you continue to make good progress Dennis.

A reminder that subscriptions are now OVERDUE, they are £3.00 with reduced rate of £1.50 for Senior Citizens and Students. If you cannot get to the next meeting subs may be sent to me at the address given at the end of the newsletter, cheques to be made payable to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society" please.

SOCIAL EVENT

There is still time to book, treat the XYL or YL to a night out on December 17th at the Telford Lodge (new name for Marconi Residence), at 7.30pm for 8.15pm. A reminder that the Finger Buffet Menu will consist of Assorted Canapes, Prawn & Crab Bouchees, Smoked Salmon Boats, Ham & Asparagus Cornets, Mushroom Quiche, Chicken Drumsticks/Nuggets, Chipolata Sausages, Assorted Cocktail Sandwiches, Profiteroles Filled with Pate, Assorted Gateau and Coffee. The cost will be £6.50 plus VAT per head, drinks of your choice extra from the bar. The usual car parking arrangements at the College will be available. Names and £1 deposit to Gwyn, G4FKH by the 6th December please. If you are not able to make the meeting on the 6th, 'phone Gwyn on (0245)-260831.

DF NATIONAL FINAL - Ian G4HKC.

Sunday 18th September dawned bright and fine, the day of the RSGB DF National Final competition. This year Colchester and Chelmsford Amateur Radio Societies were jointly responsible for organising the event in the 75th Anniversary Year of the RSGB. For DF participants this was also a most memorable year, being the "Diamond Jubilee" celebration of this aspect of amateur radio, it generally being accepted that the first DF contests took place in 1928. At midday 18 teams assembled on the village green adjacent to the church at Long Melford in Suffolk. At 1250 BST good signals were heard from all three transmitters; the competitors took their bearings, made their deliberations and at 1300 BST departed in search of the hidden transmitters.

Station A, G4PQY/P operated by Alan Williams was located in the Kings Forest at West Stow Field to the north of Bury St. Edmunds about sixteen and a half miles NNW of the start. Alan was located in undergrowth which also included trees blown down in the gales of last year. Following a fairly long run through the forest in the heat of the autumn afternoon some competitors were then faced with the prospect of traversing uprooted trees.

For those who have not attempted this activity a degree of difficulty ensued and various choice words and threats were heard to the amusement of the transmitter operator.

Station B, G4JAA/P was located in undergrowth in a small wooded area at Cornard Country Park to the SE of Sudbury, and about 5 miles SE of the start. This was a "first" for National direction finding, being the first time that a hidden station has been operated by YLs. Pat Hawkins, G4JAA was the station operator, assisted by Pat Butson, G4HKB, both being XYLs of the organisers. Several competitors found the wetter areas of the nearby River Stour more interesting than the real transmitter's location, but eventually located the ladies. In all, 16 of the 18 competitors found this transmitter.

Station C operated by Paul Clark was located eleven and a half miles ESE of the start in heavy undergrowth at the side of Hadleigh Railway Walk. To reach the site of this transmitter required a walk of at least three quarters of a mile from any direction and since the transmitter was operating under the call sign G0BTH/P competitors were half expecting to be greeted by the assistance of the dummy transmitter operator "Fred". In this they were not disappointed. Fred had been positioned in the dry culvert of two which passed beneath the disused railway track. The other culvert carried a fast flowing brook.

Antennas abounded in the area and it was evident that many competitors had been deceived into entering both culverts following antennas in the hope of reaching the transmitter. An elaborate antenna system was used with the actual hidden station being located some distance from the dummy. These ploys caused many of the competitors a considerable amount of difficulty, wasted time and frustration, but eventually the real TX was located by most competitors.

After the event, 62 persons enjoyed a sumptuous buffet tea at the Club House of Sudbury Town Football Club, where Willie McClintock, a recent past-President of the RSGB presented the "1950 Council Trophy" for DF to a worthy winner, Andy Collett of the Dartford Heath Club and a new member to CARS. Other prizes, including one for the first lady in a competing team, were also presented. A very special "Booby Prize" was also presented to the most unlucky competitor in the contest. This was adjudged to be Bill Pechey, G4CUE for although he found 3 transmitters, the third was located just after the end of the contest. The condition of this prize was that the recipient should read the description of this "fine" wine from the label upon the bottle. This was duly done to the merriment of the audience. Willie thanked the organisers for an excellent contest, and hoped that everyone had enjoyed it, and personally hoped that he may attend again, perhaps in the future as a competitor! Results below:-

POSITION	NAME	CLUB	Time of Arrival		
			STN 'A'	STN 'B'	STN 'C'
1	A.Collet	Dartford Heath	1614.	1451.55	1412
2	G.Whenham	Coventry	1614.30	1520.55	1443
3	A.Simmons	Mid-Thames	1621	1520.35	1432.10
4	B.Bristow	Mid-Thames	1622	1521.21	1431.30
5	C.Plummer	Mid-Thames	1624	1523.45	1432.50
6	P.Lisle	Mid-Thames	1627.30	1521.39	1432
7	D.Holland	South Manchester	1629.50	1521.59	1432.20
8	C.Wells	South Manchester	1629.55	1403.10	1500
9	W.Pechey	Mid-Thames	---	1532.20	1442
10	A.Malbon	Mid-Thames	---	1537.48	1431
11	K.Chann	South Manchester	---	1450.55	1541
12	D.Newman	Northampton	1418	---	1548
13	C.Metcalf	Mid-Thames	1428	1554.25	---
14	P.Larbalestier	Colchester	---	1554.49	1444
15	B.Poole	Mid-Thames	---	1558.58	1449.30
16	T.Gage	Mid-Thames	1441	1610.29	---
17	R.Pearce-Boby	*(RSGB Rep)	---	1417.59	1620.20
18	A.Judd	Mid-Thames	1438	---	1621

* RSGB Rep. - "Non-Qualified Guest"

HF NFD CONTEST RESULTS

Regarding the unusual deduction of points in the 80 metre section of the Chelmsford ARS entry, an explanation has been requested via our RSGB Liaison Officer as to how this happened. Watch these columns for the answer.

VISIT TO AN AIRPORT

The proposed visit of club members to Stansted Airport has unfortunately been cancelled by the airport authority, however, Brian, G3CVI is undaunted by this rejection and has arranged for a party from our Society to see some of the inner workings of the Southend Airport complex. For obvious reasons the party will have to be limited to 15 members, who will be able to visit the control tower to see the radar and communications in action.

The visit will be on Tuesday 20th December, to arrive at the airport by 7.30pm. Entrance is by the public car park and please have 70P in change ready for the auto-till traffic barrier at the entrance.

Will you please inform Brian if you are interested in joining the party, his phone number is (0245)71919, reservation must be on the first come basis but do not fret if you don't make the first party! if the response is strong a second visit can be arranged.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The December Committee Meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge (Marconi College Residence) at 7:45pm on Wednesday, 14th December. You are most welcome to join us. Please note the new starting time.

DIARIES FOR 1989 and QSL CARDS

At the December meeting Ela will have a display of Christmas stocking fillers for sale in the form of the Diaries (as previously seen) and a nice line in QSL cards from the same local supplier.

CLUB NET

The 10 Metre Net operates on the Tuesday evenings between meetings on 28.325MHz at 8.30pm local time, please join us.

CLUB LIBRARY

Brian G3CVI is in charge of this service, see the list of books on the notice board at the meetings, the charge is 20p a book per month.

If any member would like to contribute a book, Brian would be pleased to add it to the collection.

MORSE TUTORS

If you have a Morse Tutor on loan and would like to return or extend the loan please arrange this with Ela G6HKM at the meetings, both Tutors are out at the moment, however your name can be put on the waiting list.

FINALE

Returning to the subject of meetings, how do you like the new layout of the seating? It does present the opportunity to see the faces of other members rather than their backs! and it certainly suited the distribution of purchases at the Junk Sale. For some meetings with guest speakers we may revert to rows of seats, however, the committee would like to hear any comments you may have on the subject.

One suggestion from the committee is for members to wear their call-sign and name badges at the meetings to enable operators to put a face to the voice heard on the air. If you do not have a badge we can arrange to obtain a few clear plastic lapel holders that will hold a cutting from your QSL card.

A very happy Christmas to you all.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Now is the time to plant your Conifer Trees! Assorted sizes, 50P each or 11 for £5
Ela G6HKM, Tel No. (0245)360545.

WANTED

Has any member a copy of the April 1986 Practical Wireless that they would be willing to lend for a short time to read the details of the 70MHz 'MEON-2' Transverter.
Roy G3PMX, Tel No. (0245)360545.